

Roger Tea and 11-year-old son Jason join dog Chelsea in watching for a flock of ducks to fly overhead at a public hunting area on the Great Salt Lake. Duck hunters helped to preserve thousands of acres of wetlands on the lake's scenic east shoreline.

Duck Hunters Help Preserve Great Salt Lake Marshes

™ Continued From C-8

ner, the Utah Ducks Unlimited director. "My big concern is that, if hunting was ever eliminated, who would come up with the money. The habitat created for waterfowl, that can be hunted, is also a haven for songbirds, raptors and shorebirds. Few of those species are hunted. We provide the habitat needed by all wildlife which uses wetlands.

Ella Sorensen, one of the foremost experts on Great Salt Lake

shorebirds and a non-hunter, gives hunters credit for preserving the lake's marshes. But she worries that wildlife managers spend too much time developing duck habitat and not enough time saving the lake's ecosystem.

Hunters should definitely be complimented for preserving wetlands," she said. "They have done much. And many non-game species compatible with ducks are helped. But many other species which use mud and alkali flats are often disregarded. When habitat is created for ducks, habitat for other species can be destroyed. There has not been enough research and emphasis on preserving the whole Great Salt Lake ecosystem, especially its saltwater systems.

When sitting in a duck blind on a cold fall afternoon, hunters like Hogle and Kidder think little about these controversies.

Hogle remembers ending a 1969 hunting trip when astronauts walked on the moon and looking up to see the white orb rising over the Wasatch moun-

"We were out there taking part in a tradition that dates back to early man," he recalls, "and we realized that men were on the moon at that moment. It sure felt

For his part, Kidder enjoys hunting with his daughter on a frosty morning - decoys spread about, a duck call around his neck and a trusty retriever at his side.

'There's nothing like a morning on the marsh," he said. "The only thing that could be better is a sunset on the marsh. What goes on between is just a bonus.'

Beaches Like Those at Bear Lake Offer Hikers Many New Opportunities

By Craig Hansell

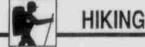
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

BEAR LAKE - With Utah in the midst of a six-year drought, now might be a good time for hikers to explore some of the state's

This year, from the Idaho border to Arizona. Utah offers plenty of beach to explore.

Bear Lake hikers and beach fans, for example, are exploring areas where boats anchored as recently as the late 1980s.

Now, the water level has dropped 18 feet and there is plenty of beach here (as well as miles of boating solitude remaining on the limited-access lake) to ex-



The same can be said of almost all Utah reservoirs and lakes. If you can remember where that rock nabbed your favorite lure, a stroll along the beach might help you find it again.

Although inland waters don't contain the same marine life which washes up on seaside beaches, there is still plenty of flotsam to make beach combing an adventure of discovery

Even the Great Salt Lake is at a low level with miles of exposed beach to discover.

Some areas, like Bear Lake for example, restrict motorized access on the beach. That keeps a shore-side hike a quiet experience. Other areas, like reservoirs, may also have restrictions to protect water shed. Hikers should contact officials about their chosen destination.

You could combine mountain biking with a beach hike by riding the new Historic Union Pacific Park City Rail Trail to Echo Reservoir to hike along the shore. Lake Powell boaters are enjoying shores that haven't been seen for

As irrigation demand falls, reservoir releases will slow the

stream flows. With some fall color remaining in the foothills, the contrast of blue water with the brown and orange hillside colors adds to a spectacular hiking experience.

There is a considerable negative impact resulting from the drought. However beach hiking can be a positive experience - if you don't spend too much time worrying about how you will water your lawn next summer.

ONE DAY IN BLUFF

BLUFF, San Juan County - Midway between Blanding and Mexican Hat, this town was the first Anglo-Saxon settlement in the county. Bluff became a town on April 6, 1880, when William Hutchings of the Mormons' San Juan Mission Hole in The Rock expedition coined the name

The scenic unincorporated community of 250 residents is in the midst of a host of attractions.

This country is on the edge of some of the most incredible hiking canyons and mesas that exist," said Mary Foushee, who moved here in 1959 with her geologist husband Gene to restore and operate Recapture Lodge. "We named it after Recapture Canyon which was named when Piutes drove off the horses from a 1875 Hayden Survey party. A member of the Hayden party followed the horses into a canyon and recaptured them.

The Foushee's owned the lodge until 1990 when they sold it. Now they are restoring a two story brick home built by handcart pioneer Jens Nielson. It is one of a number of restored vintage

Early settlers found the farming difficult. Relying on the oftenrampaging San Juan River for irrigation was difficult. They soon discovered cattle ranching was an easier way to make a living. The Bluff Cattle Pool was started and ranchers such as Lemuel Redd became significant figures

Bluff residents took advantage of artesian wells to create one of southern Utah's first city-water systems. Now, farmers use modern-irrigation systems to raise water melons east of town.

Natives Steven and Craig Simpson moved away for their education and then returned five years ago to establish the Twin Rock Trading Post and Hozoni Pottery works in Bluff. Now, the Simpsons employ about 25 Navajo artisans and sell their pottery in all the Western states as well as some states in the east.

In addition to the Simpsons, other Bluff businesses include the Cow Canyon, Sun Bonnet, Turquoise and Dairy cafes. There are three small gas stations and three motels. The Recapture Lodge, Kokopelli and Moke motels all offer lodging to visitors who want to use Bluff as a base for an exploration of San Juan County.

The original settlement of about 250 Mormons has remained quite stable over Bluff's 112-year history. Now however, Bluff is home to a mix of religons.

Bluff Elementary School teaches children from kindergarten through sixth grade. For middle school, residents travel to Blanding. There are high schools at Monument Valley, Montezuma Creek and Blanding.

Since the early days residents have used the artesian-spring fed Pioneer Pond one mile west of twin rocks as a favorite swimming hole. Bluff's Wild Rivers Expeditions offers one- to six-day trips on the San Juan River as well as other international trips.

We do a lot of hiking," said Steven Simpson. "For those interested in anthropology and archeology it is a nice spot."

At nearby St. Christophers Mission, Steven Plummer is the first Navajo Episcopalian bishop. Seventeen Room Ruin, which can be accessed by crossing a swinging bridge, is a popular local destination. Hikers, campers and mountain bikers are discovering the Valley of the Gods, Butler Wash and Comb Ridge as well as surrounding areas of Monument Valley, Four Corners, Hovenweep, Lake Powell and Mesa Verde.

"It is a beautiful little town," said Simpson. "We are seeing quite a bit more traffic and people seem concerned about the environment.'

Bluff's big annual celebration is the Southern San Juan County Navajo Fair. Scheduled in mid-September, the event includes a parade, rodeo and carnival.

- Craig Hansell

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